

## **Week of May 13, 2002: MaineDOT Flash Facts**

### **Topic: Speeding**

#### **Monday**

##### **Driver safety questions:**

- What percentage of Maine crashes are caused by excessive speed. (40%)
- Do teenagers really have more speed related crashes? (Yes-2½ times more often than other drivers.)

##### **Openers:**

- Excessive speed is Maine's number 1 highway killer.

##### **Maine crash facts**

- Teenage drivers are 2½ times more likely to be in a speed-related crash. (Excessive speed coupled with a younger driver's inexperience is a dangerous combination.)
- About 1/3 of speed related fatalities involve 15-19 year olds.
- Nearly half of the speed related fatal crashes occur between 8PM and 2AM
- Each year unsafe speed kills about 70 people in Maine. (Speeding may only cost you a ticket, but could cost you your life)

#### **Wednesday**

##### **What dangers are created when you speed?**

- Excessive speed causes:
  - Loss of vehicle control (and that can cause: Run Off Road crash; Crossing the center line leading to a Head-On crash; Difficulty in recovering or correcting; Hydroplaning; and Vehicle rollovers -particularly with SUV's)
  - Longer stopping distances (The distance it takes to stop a car at 60 miles per hour is double the stopping distance at 40 miles per hour)
  - Shorter reaction time (plus causes more of a tunnel vision view of the road-reduced peripheral vision)
  - More deadly crashes (Speed is not Maine's most frequent crash cause, but excessive speed leads to the most fatalities)

#### **Friday**

##### **To keep speed from becoming your problem...**

- If you leave 15 minutes late, expect to arrive 15 minutes late. (Do not try to make up time on the road.)
- Adapt your speed to hazardous driving situations:
  - Night
  - Weather (rain, fog, snow)
  - Highway warning signs
  - Wildlife areas
  - Work Zones (and also speeding fines may be doubled)
- Drive defensively-watch out for other drivers

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